

Appendix F
White Paper: Effects of
Asphalt on EM-62-MK2

White Paper

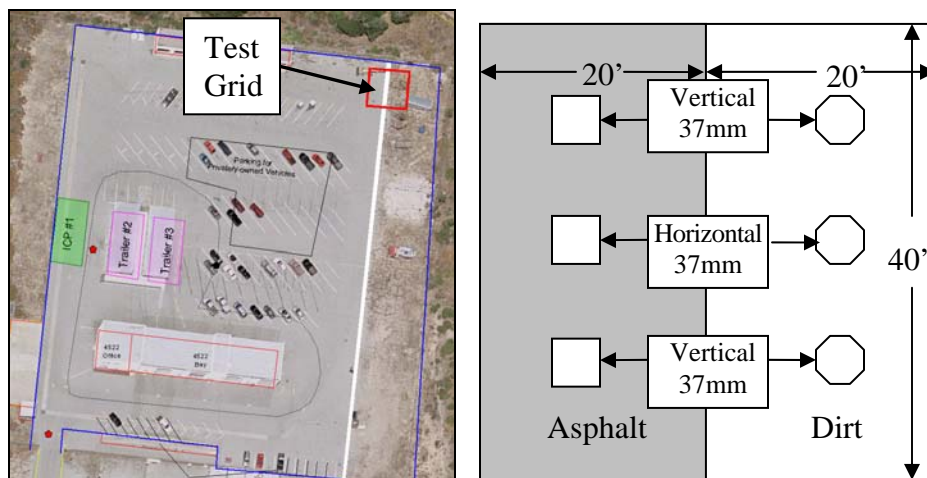
Effect of Asphalt on EM61-MK2 Response to Subsurface Metallic Items

1 OBJECTIVE

A test was conducted to determine whether the asphalt found at the former Fort Ord affects the ability of the Geonics® EM61-MK2 electromagnetometer to detect subsurface metallic items.

2 METHODOLOGY

The EM61-MK2 was tested over a 40-ft by 40-ft grid located in the northeast corner of the Parsons compound parking lot at the former Fort Ord (Figure 1). Half of the test grid was positioned over the approximately 3-in.-thick existing asphalt of the parking lot and the other half was placed over the dirt area adjacent to the asphalt. Six 37mm projectiles were buried horizontally or vertically in the test site in the pattern displayed by Figure 2.



Figures 1 and 2—A 40-ft by 40-ft test grid was placed in the northeast corner of Parsons compound parking lot (left); the test grid was divided into two 20-ft by 40-ft asphalt and dirt sections with three 37mm projectiles seeded approximately parallel in each section (right).

To place the test items under the asphalt surface, square holes, approximately 14 in. on a side, were cut into the asphalt. Prior to collecting data, the asphalt pieces were removed from the ground, the test items were buried, and the asphalt pieces were placed back over the ground.



Photograph 1—Approximately 14-in.-squares were cut into the asphalt so test items could be buried underneath it.

1 An EM61-MK2 cart was pushed over the test grid to collect three sets of geophysical data
2 (Photograph 2). The first data set was collected with no test items seeded, which was the control
3 data set; the second set was collected with the test items buried 12 in. below ground surface (bgs
4 [bgs is measured from the top of the item to the ground surface]); and the third set was collected
5 with the test items buried 18 in. bgs.



6
7 Photograph 2—Three sets of geophysical data were collected with the EM61-MK2 system pictured.

8 The first control data set was collected before the test items were buried to ensure that they were
9 not placed over existing anomalies. During the review of the control data set, two large
10 anomalies were found within the test site. The anomalies were investigated and found to be
11 grounding rods that were unfeasible to move. Consequently, the proposed locations of test items
12 were shifted slightly to avoid interference from these anomalies and still maintain adequate
13 distance between all test items (Figure 3).

14 The six test items were then buried 12 in. bgs, their locations were recorded using a Leica global
15 positioning system (GPS), and EM61-MK2 data was collected using 2-ft line spacing with a
16 sampling rate of 10 readings per second (Figure 4). After the second data set was collected, the
17 items were re-buried 18 in. bgs and the location identification and data collection procedures
18 were repeated (Figure 5).

19 3 ANALYSIS

20 Each of the three sets of EM61-MK2 data was processed with Geosoft Oasis Montaj software
21 following the standard processing steps listed in the *Former Fort Ord Military Munitions*
22 *Response Program Programmatic Work Plan* (May 2004, second edition with updates). The
23 EM61-MK2 asphalt test results are listed in Table 1; the data indicates that the instrument
24 responses below the asphalt and the dirt ground surface are comparable.

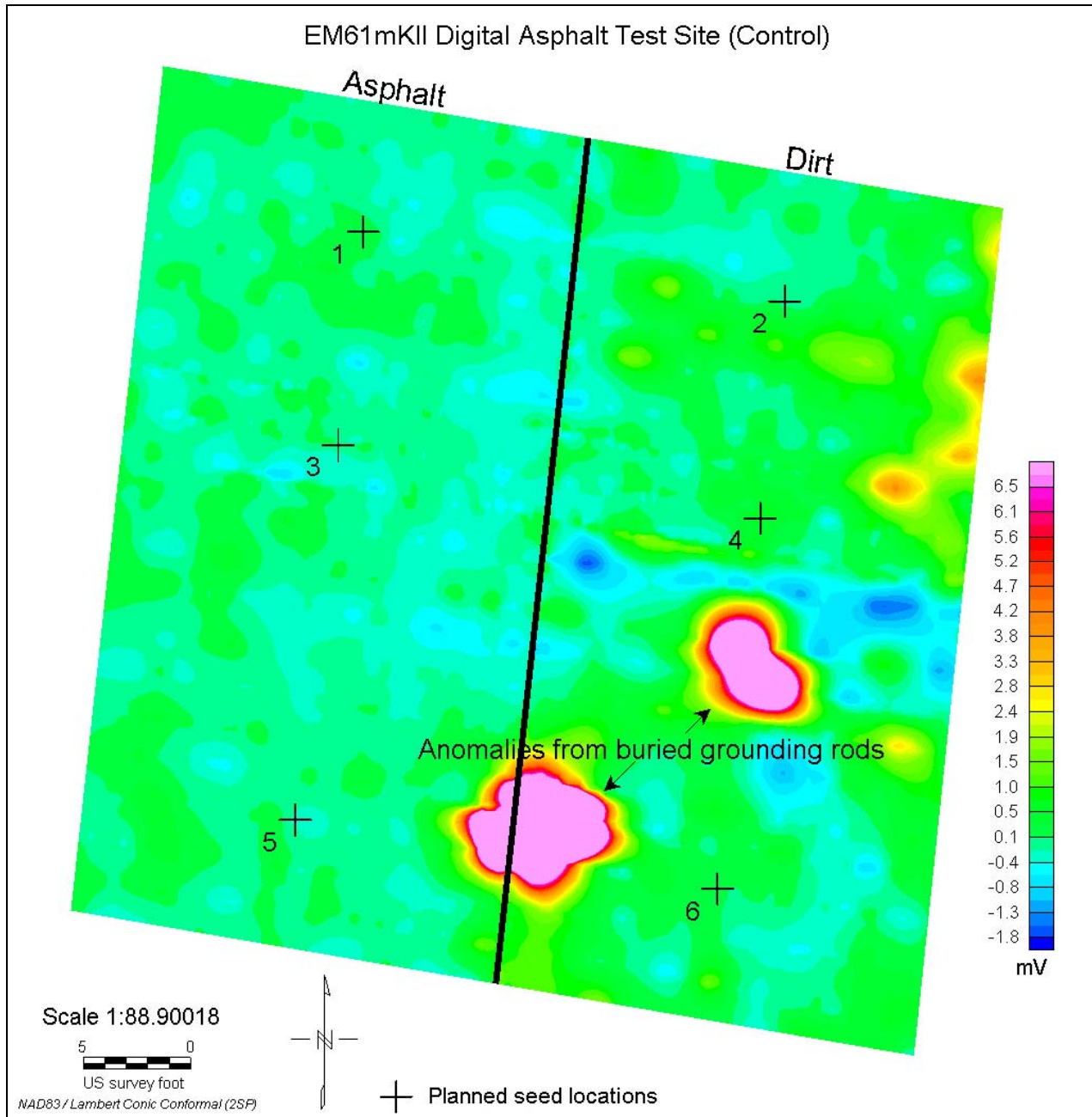


Figure 3—EM61-MK2 data was first collected before test items were buried in the test grids to ensure that the test items would not be placed over existing anomalies. The data revealed two large anomalies from grounding rods buried in the subsurface.

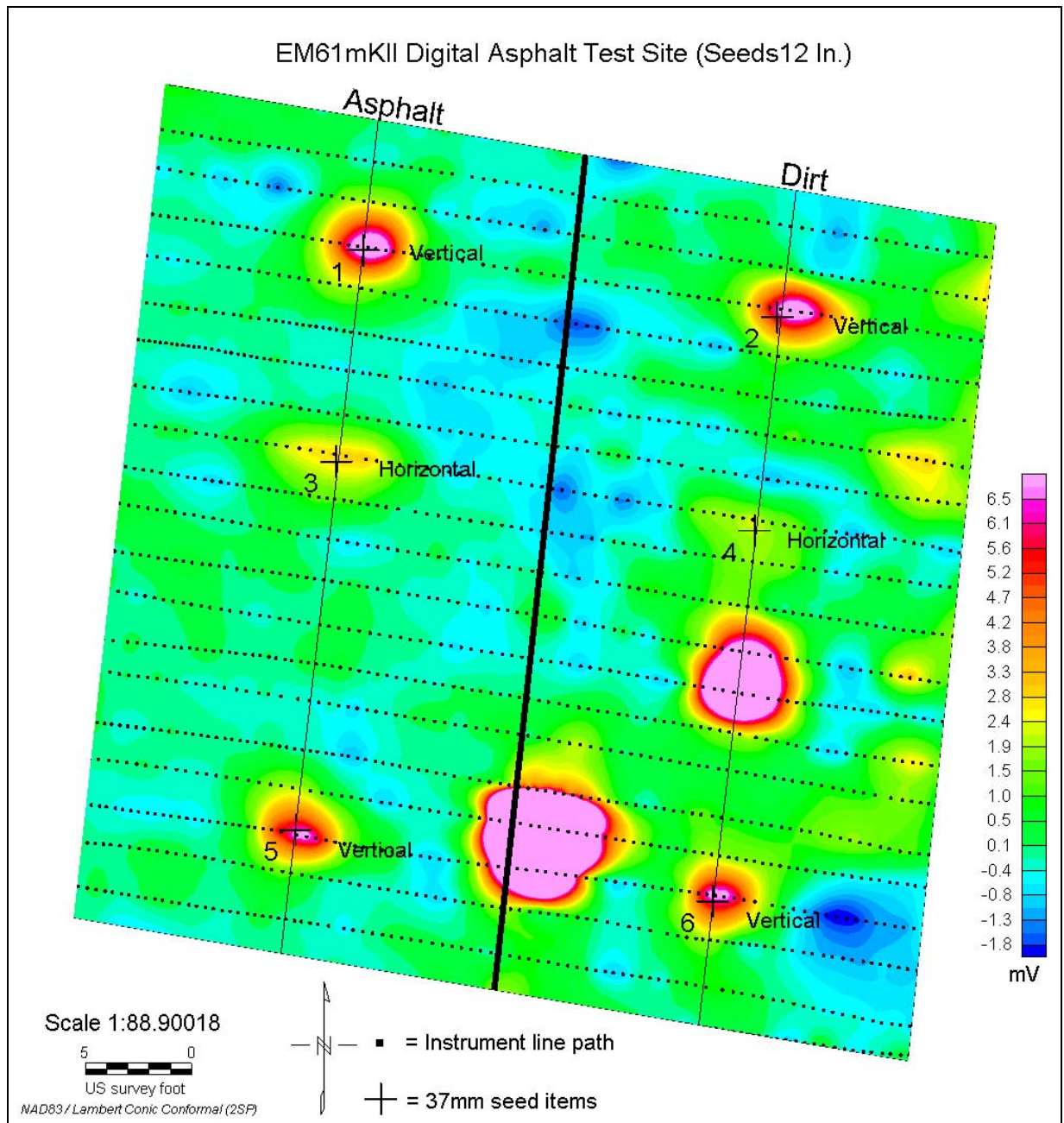


Figure 4—Next, EM61-MK2 data was collected over the test grid with test items buried horizontally and vertically at a depth of 12 in. bgs. This was done to compare the channel 3 instrument response to a standard metallic item under the asphalt and under the dirt ground surface at varying depths and orientations.

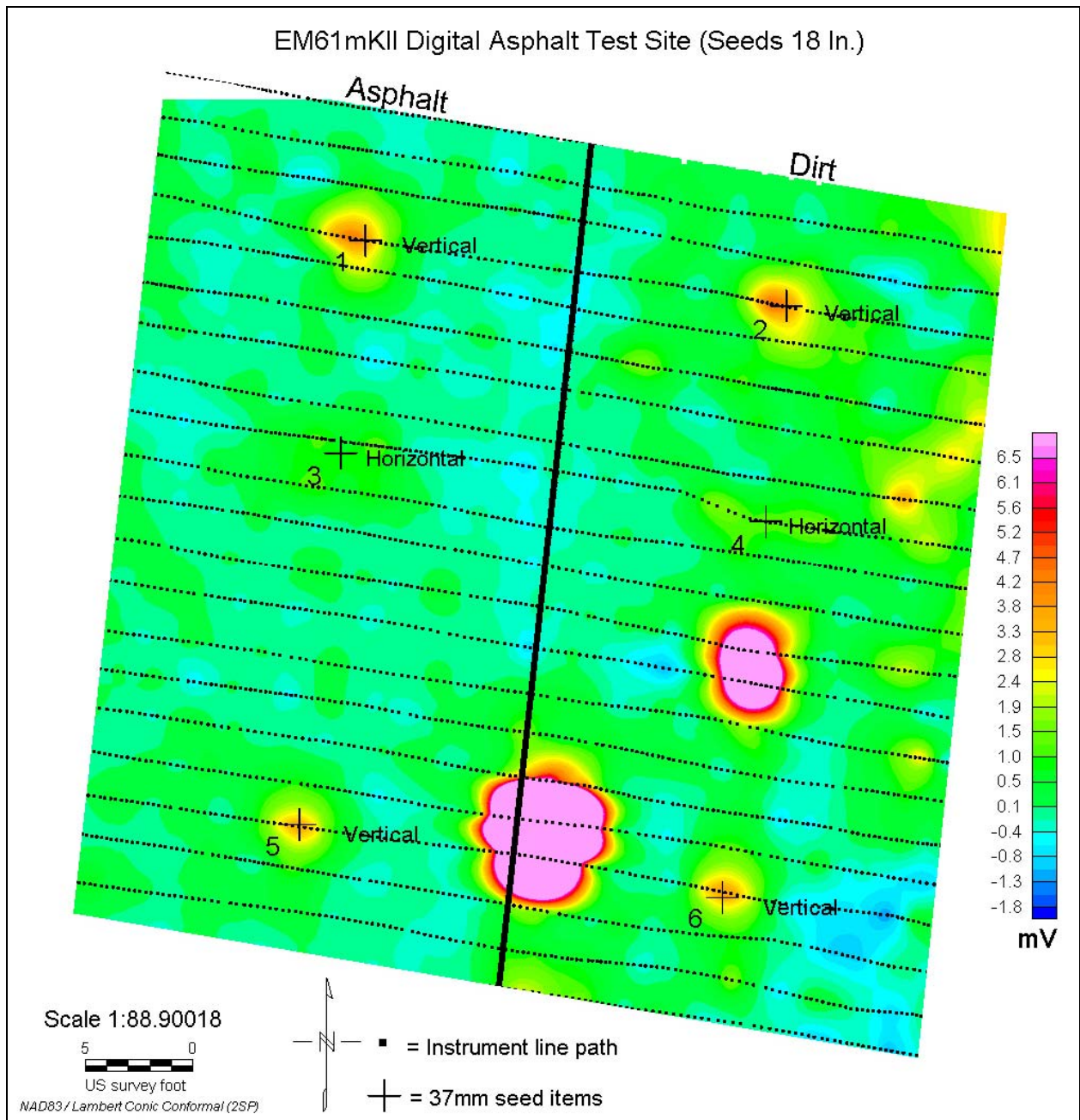


Figure 5—Finally, EM61-MK2 data was collected over the test grid with test items buried horizontally and vertically at a depth of 18 in. bgs.

Table 1—EM61-MK2 Asphalt Test Results

| ID | Description | Orientation | Channel 3 Instrument Response (mV) | | Surface |
|----|-----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| | | | 12 in. bgs | 18 in. bgs | |
| 1 | 37mm projectile | Vertical | 9.6 | 4.4 | Asphalt |
| 2 | 37mm projectile | Vertical | 8.1 | 4.6 | Dirt |
| 3 | 37mm projectile | Horizontal | 3.2 | .94 | Asphalt |
| 4 | 37mm projectile | Horizontal | 3.3 | 1.1 | Dirt |
| 5 | 37mm projectile | Vertical | 7.8 | 3.6 | Asphalt |
| 6 | 37mm projectile | Vertical | 7.8 | 3.7 | Dirt |

- With the test items buried 12 in. bgs, the channel 3 response for item 1 (buried vertically under the asphalt) was 1.5mV higher than the response for item 2 (buried vertically under the dirt ground surface). The response to item 1 may have been higher because the data line passed within 0.2 feet of the item. While over item 2, though, the data line passed more than 0.4 ft from the center of the coil to the item.
- With the test items buried 18 in. bgs, the channel 3 instrument responses to the four test items buried vertically were greater than 3 mV. The channel 3 instrument responses to the two test items buried horizontally, though, were less than 3mV—near the instrument noise level.

4 CONCLUSION

The approximately 3-in.-thick asphalt parking lot in Parsons' compound at the former Fort Ord did not significantly affect the ability of the Geonics EM61-MK2 to detect subsurface metallic items. It can be assumed that modifying the test parameters with different test items and/or other burial depths would not affect the EM61-MK2's ability to detect the metallic test items through the asphalt.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

This asphalt test confirmed observations from when the EM61-MK2 was used on paved areas at the Seaside (SEA.1–4) and MOCO.2 munitions response sites (MRSs). If large areas of asphalt on MRSs at the former Fort Ord are to be digitally mapped, it is recommended that the asphalt areas be subjected to the site's QC seeding program. This should be done to ensure that different characteristics of the asphalt (e.g., thickness, composition) are not reducing the ability of the EM61-MK2 to detect metallic items under the asphalt.

It should be noted that the scope of this recommendation is limited to MRSs at the former Fort Ord. It is likely that the asphalt areas at other defense sites have a different composition. A separate asphalt test, similar to the one described herein, should be conducted for each defense site where asphalt areas are to be digitally mapped.